

**II. REMARKS**

**A. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1 to 24 have been cancelled without prejudice in this amendment in response to the restriction requirement.

Claims 25 to 32 are now pending.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment

**B. Restriction Requirement**

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that restriction is required and requested that one of the following groups be elected:

Group I: Claims 1-24, drawn to a method for screening companies for investment and creating a benchmark of securities; and

Group II: Claims 25 to 32, drawn to a method and program for creating and selecting a set of securities.

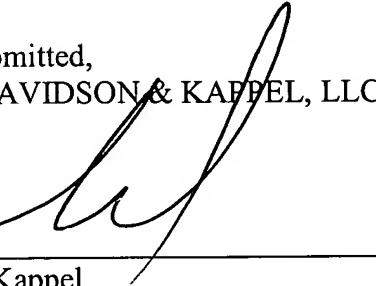
In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group II, claims 25 to 32, drawn to a method and program for creating and selecting a set of securities.

**III. CONCLUSION**

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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